

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of this application and the allowance of claims 1-17. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Liu (U.S. patent 6,876,836). Claims 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the combination of Liu in view of Jensen (U.S. patent 6,075,995).

For at least the reasons set forth herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 18 and 20 (claim 19 has been canceled herein) and new claim 21.

35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Liu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,876,836 B2. Claim 18 recites:

18. A radio frequency (RF) front-end circuit system for transmitting and receiving RF signals via a first and second antenna, comprising:
a printed circuit board having a predetermined area devoid of a solder mask;
an antenna switch, mounted on the printed circuit board within the predetermined area, having at least two input ports and at least two output ports, enabling connection of any of the input ports to either of the output ports, where the output ports are coupled to the first and the second antennas, respectively;
a filter, mounted on the printed circuit board within the predetermined area and coupled to one of the input ports of the antenna switch, blocking unwanted frequency components in an RF receive signal from either of the antennas; and
a power amplifier, mounted on the printed circuit board within the predetermined area and coupled to the other input port of the antenna switch, boosting a RF transmit signal to be transferred to either antenna through the antenna switch.

(Emphasis added.)

As emphasized above, claim 18 defines a printed circuit board (PCB) having, among other features, “*a predetermined area devoid of a solder mask*,” and an antenna switch, a filter, and a power amplifier mounted on the PCB within the predetermined area. In contrast, Liu does not teach or suggest such features. In fact, the Office Action didn’t even allege these features to be taught or disclosed in Liu. For at least this reason, the rejection is incomplete and/or misplaced and should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (U.S. Patent No 6,876,838 B2) in view of Jensen (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,995). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

First, claims 19-20 depend from claim 18 and patently define over the cited art for at least the same reason.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Liu is not proper prior art (under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e)) to claims 19-20. In this regard, Liu (U. S. Patent No. 6,876,836 was owned by Integrated Programmable Communication, Inc., at the time the invention of the present application was made. Indeed, the present application was originally assigned to Integrated Programmable Communications, Inc. (see assignment recorded at reel/frame 01495/0389). Thus, Liu is not prior art (according to U.S.C 35 103(c)) to claim 20. For at least this reason, the rejection should be withdrawn.

New Claim 21

Claim 19 has been canceled, and newly added claim 21 is added and includes all limitations of claim 19 rewritten in independent form.

Cited Art

The cited art made of record, but not relied upon, is not believed to impact the patentability of the presently pending claims.

Conclusion

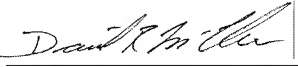
For the reasons as described above, Applicant believes that claim 18 is allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claim 18 is allowable, claim 20 (dependent from claim 18) is also allowable.

Should Examiner feel that further discussion of the application and the Amendment is conducive to prosecution and allowance thereof, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the address and telephone listed below.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. McClure", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and fluid.

Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962

Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley, LLP
100 Galleria Pkwy, NW
Suite 1750
Atlanta, GA 30339
770-933-9500